

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PORT AUTHORITY EMPLOYEES WHO LOST THEIR LIVES ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ON THE OCCASION OF THE DEDICATION OF A MEMORIAL AT McMANUS PARK IN ASTORIA, NY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 75 employees of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey who tragically lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. In recognition of the ultimate sacrifice they made while striving to rescue others, these fallen heroes have been honored with the dedication of a memorial in McManus Memorial Park in Astoria, New York.

I attended the dedication of the memorial and was deeply moved by the heartfelt testament to these fallen heroes by friends, family, and area residents. This park will bear witness that their courage and selflessness will never be forgotten, while offering a quiet and tranquil oasis amidst the busy city that affords an opportunity for reflection upon the terrible losses borne on that tragic day.

I ask that the following speeches given at the dedication ceremony be entered into the record:

THE UNITED COMMUNITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION
(By Rose Marie Poveromo, President)

Good evening ladies and gentleman. Tonight's memorial dedication ceremony is a joint effort shared by the United Community Civic Association and our neighbor, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

This living memorial of "A Grove of Trees" is to specifically honor the 75 Port Authority employees as well as all the other innocents who so tragically lost their lives in the 9111 shattering, horrific attack on, and total collapse of, the twin towers.

PORT AUTHORITY OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

(By Bill De Costa)

I am grateful to be here to dedicate this memorial to the 75 Port Authority employees, and neighbors who lost their lives in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. This ceremony also honors the memory of all the New York City police officers, firemen and all the other citizens who gave the ultimate sacrifice that day.

Any event is always more meaningful when you receive acknowledgment from your family, so we are particularly honored that our neighbors and friends represented by the United Civic Community Association have been so thoughtful and considerate in their recognition. Thank you Rose Marie!

Yes, whether we are Port Authority or New York City employees, we are all actual members of this vibrant and wonderful community.

As we stand here today and view the McManus Vietnam Memorial at one end of the park, and now this Port Authority me-

morial at the other end of the park, we should always be reminded of the words of President Harry Truman: "Freedom is still expensive. It still costs money. It still costs blood. It still calls for courage and endurance, not only in soldiers, but in every man and woman who is free and who is determined to remain free."

Seventy-five Port Authority employees, including 37 police officers, made the ultimate sacrifice that September morning. Always remember these people who were our neighbors, family members and friends. The greatest testimony that we can now give them is to continue our resolve for security and freedom and to continue to work and live in this spirit.

Thank you all for attending and remembering them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me honoring the Port Authority employees, the police officers and firefighters, and all those who paid the ultimate price on September 11, 2001 and to recognize those who planted a beautiful memorial grove of trees in their honor. It aptly serves as a living tribute to the brave men and women of the Port Authority and all who lost their lives on that tragic day.

BASIC PILOT EXTENSION ACT OF
2003

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1685, the Basic Pilot Extension Act of 2003.

The Basic Pilot Verification program was created in 1997 to assist employers in verifying the eligibility of prospective employees to work in the U.S. Currently the program is only available to employers in six States. Recently I voted against a bill to expand and extend the program, H.R. 2359, because I thought an expansion of this program deserved more debate and allowance for amendments to fix some of the more problematic parts of the bill.

The Senate-passed measure that we are considering today, S. 1685, is an improvement on the House bill.

Unlike the House bill, this bill does not open up access to the databases of the Homeland Security Department and the Social Security Administration to other Federal agencies or to State and local government agencies. I had grave concerns about the infringement of civil liberties in the House bill, which would have permitted widespread sharing of employee information. I am also pleased that concerns already identified by the Department of Homeland Security about the Basic Pilot program are being addressed. I still have apprehensions that the data used in this program is not always up-to-date or accurate, specifically in regard to the visa status of employees. However, I am hopeful that the Homeland Security Department report required under this legisla-

tion will address these concerns so that they can be resolved by the time the program is expanded to all fifty states.

The Basic Pilot Verifications program provides an efficient and effective method for ensuring that employers are hiring eligible employees. I hope that through the extension and expansion provided for in this bill, this program will provide accurate information about prospective employees and continue to address the needs of American employers.

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID LOFYE

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a fond farewell to a member of my staff, David Lofye, who will be leaving Capitol Hill at the end of this calendar year. David is leaving his position as my Deputy Chief of Staff, and will be moving to Austin, Texas with his wife, Andrea Lofye.

All of us who serve in Congress know how important our staff members are to us. David came to my office after completing law school nearly six years ago. His knowledge of legislative issues, his strong work ethic, and his desire to make a difference have grown exponentially during this time. I value David's council and his pragmatic and methodical approach to each task he undertook.

David has staffed me on both the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, as well as the Science Committee. His depth of knowledge on these and other issues has been invaluable over the past six years.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with David. I am confident that his abilities and his work ethic will continue to serve him well in the years to come.

David, thank you for your hard work over the last six years. You will truly be missed.

RECOGNIZING THE MORRIS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE AND SAVE THE LIGHT

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Morris Island Lighthouse and to applaud the efforts of Save the Light. Save the Light is a non-profit entity dedicated to the preservation of the Morris Island Lighthouse. The Morris Island Lighthouse, a National Historic Landmark which began operation in 1876, is a true historical treasure, playing significant roles in both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. It was decommissioned in 1962 by the U.S. Coast Guard, but is now owned by the State of South Carolina and leased to Save the Light.

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